NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER EXTRA

December 2026



PHOTO: TIM DOLAN

Northamptonshire & Peterborough Organists' Association presents a

CONCERT FOR EPIPHANY AND THE NEW YEAR

St Peter and St Paul
Abington Park Northampton
NN3 3AB

Saturday 9th January 2027 at 2pm

Come and enjoy an informal afternoon of seasonal music-making, including items for organ, piano, chorale, and 'fun' items by NPOA members and friends.

The concert will be followed by refreshments - everyone welcome
Admission free - retiring collection

Find NPOA on Facebook and at www.nporganists.org.uk

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

Members' CD and Video Afternoon

Refreshments included

Our President Chris Strange invites you to the second NPOA event of the New Year which will take place on:

Saturday 13th February 2027 at 2.00 pm

when past president Alan Cufaude will host a Members' CD and Video Afternoon in his home:

2, Frank Large Walk, St. Crispin's, Northampton NN5 4UP.

Members will have an opportunity to share their favourite organ, choral or other music, and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and friendship. Please put the date in your diary and think about what music you will share.
Your choice may be brought on any of the following:



CD, DVD, LP, or YouTube video or other audio or video recording on USB stick.



There will be refreshments - tea, coffee, cake and more!

It will be useful for the catering and seating if you can let Alan know on : alannorthampton@hotmail.co.uk if you plan to attend.

All are welcome.

If you are not a member and would like to attend, or have any queries please contact us by email at helen.e.murphy@outlook.com

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May we take the opportunity to wish all our members and friends a very happy Christmas!

NPOA AGM. Our Annual General Meeting took place in November at Peterborough Cathedral's Song School, when we welcomed Chris Strange, the Cathedral's Director of Music, as our new President, and thanked Helen Murphy for all her work as President during the last year. We were also pleased to welcome Rosemary Nayyar and William Craven to the committee, and to thank Don Kennedy and Robert Tucker for all their work over the past three years as they step down from our committee.

The continuing officers and committee members were thanked for for all their work. Following the meeting, members had an opportunity to play the Song School Vincent Woodstock organ. A fuller report will appear in the next edition of the *Newsletter*.

Subscriptions for 2027. Subscriptions for 2027 were agreed to remain unchanged at only £10 for individual membership (the same as in 1996!) and £15 for family, corporate or church membership with online material. If you would like a full-colour A5 printed quarterly *Newsletter* - and we'd really encourage you to do so - it's available for an additional subscription of £10 per year as a contribution to costs. You can pay your 2027 subscription by bank transfer to our account at 56-00-60 05478240, (noting your name as the reference, please) or can contact our Treasurer, Glyn Hughes, at treasurer@nporganists.org.uk to make other arrangements.

NPOA Concert for Epiphany and the New Year St Peter and St Paul, Abington Park, Northampton NN3 3AB, **Saturday 9th January at 2pm**. Offers from members and friends to perform at the concert, whether organ, piano, or other musical contributions, or seasonal readings, would be most welcome - do please contact Helen, our Past President, at helen.e.murphy@outlook.com. The concert will be followed by refreshments, and everyone is welcome - admission free with a retiring collection.

NPOA Members' CD and Video Afternoon takes place at the home of Past President Alan Cufuade on **Saturday 13th February at 2pm** at 2, Frank Large Walk, St. Crispin's, Northampton NN5 4UR. It would be most helpful if you could let Alan know if you plan to attend at alan.northampton@hotmail.co.uk.

Harvey Stansfield. Members will recall that Harvey was Organ Scholar at Peterborough Cathedral, and played one of the Association-sponsored Lunchtime Recitals in 2024. He kindly wrote about his experiences as an organ scholar for our *Newsletter,* and also launched his debut CD of music by Percy Whitlock. After leaving Peterborough, Harvey became Assistant Organist at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh, but sadly last year was diagnosed with the debilitating condition of Functional Neurological Disorder. That has significantly impacted his mobility, and has meant that he had to step back from his role and from the musical world.

A crowdfunding appeal has been launched to raise money to help Harvey access appropriate specialist treatment and rehabilitation. If anyone might consider supporting Harvey's journey, it would be more than appreciated, and details can be found at https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/support-harveys-journey-health-independence.

RSCM Centenary Launch. RSCM will be starting its Centenary year on 6th December at 6pm in Chislehurst, the place where the RSCM had its first premises. It will join the nearby church of St Nicholas, Chislehurst, for evensong, and would be delighted if everyone could celebrate with them either online or in person. Further details can be found on the RSCM website. You can also join them at Sarum College and online on Monday 7th December at 7pm for their RSCM Connect Centenary Launch to learn about the history of the RSCM and to find out about their exciting plans for next year. The RSCM | Enabling the Flourishing of Church Music | Enabling the Flourishing of Church Music.

RSCM's Centenary Conference will take place at Rugby School on 21st-22nd May 2027 - more details available on the RSCM website (above) in the New Year.

Lunchtime Live, All Saints' Northampton. For the Lunchtime Live recitals at 1.10pm on 3rd December, Jem Lowther, the church's DoM, plays the last in the series of three Back to Bach concerts.

An Early Christmas - a concert of early Christmas music spanning five centuries by students of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire takes place in RBC's Recital Hall on 10th December at 7.30pm https://www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/events-calendar/an-early-christmas-10-12-2026

Philip Bricher at All Hallows', Wellingborough. Our member Philip Bricher will play a recital at All Hallows' on Saturday 16th January at 2.30pm. All most welcome.

Bloomsbury Organ Day 2027 takes place at Bloomsbury Baptist Church https://organistsonline.org/bloomsbury/ on Saturday 30th January, with a celebrity recital from Jean-Baptiste Dupont. The day also includes presentations from Philip Norman with details of *Small Choirs Anthem* (with the audience forming the choir!), Daniel Moult on *20th Century Bach* and Jean-Baptiste Dupont on *French Organs and Organ Music*. There's also a composite recital by RCO star pupils, and recitals by Thomas Watkin and Ophelia Omar. All is free of charge except the Dupont recital and preceding buffet - do check out the details.

The Great O Antiphons - Robert Page. Amongst our member Robert Page's excellent compositions is his arrangement of the Great O Antiphons for Advent. You can find details and the score via his website at https://rpmusic.org.uk/sacredchoralcompositions.html.

Orgues Novelles 2027 Calendar. The new French Orgues Novelles calendar is available to order at 25 euros plus postage at https://orgues-nouvelles.org/en/product/orgues-nouvelles-2027-calendar/

Sunday Worship from Blackburn Cathedral. BBC Sunday Worship on 22nd November came from Blackburn Cathedral to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Diocese of Blackburn, and featured the superb Walker organ which was the brainchild of Dr John Bertalot, former DoM at St Matthew's, Northampton and a Past President of the Association. JB's lovely arrangement of Lord of the Dance was included, together with an affectionate tribute to JB. The programme is still available to listen to online at https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0034lwb.

Newsletter Extra and the quarterly *Newsletter* are published by Northamptonshire and Peterborough Organists' Association (formerly Northampton & District Organists' Association) registered charity no. 274679.
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